

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09586 261334Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 SAB-01 IO-10 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00

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R 261226Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6738

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T CAIRO 9586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: REPORT OF ANTI-SADAT STUDENT RALLY

1. FONMIN FAHMY TOLD AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 25 THAT NASSERIST AND MARXIST STUDENTS HAD GATHERED ON PREVIOUS THREE DAYS AT CAIRO CAMPUS OF AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY TO PROTEST SINAI DISENGAGEMENT TERMS. ACCORDING TO FAHMY, SECURITY FORCES WERE SENT IN AND SOME ARRESTS WERE MADE, INCLUDING PROMINENT LEFTIST KAMAL AL-DIN RIF'AT. FAHMY DID NOT ESTIMATE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PRICIPATING IN RALLIES; WE ARE ENDEAVORING OBTAIN MORE DETAILS.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN EGYPT AGAINST SINAI II, BUT SOURCE OF PROTEST IS SURPRISE TO NO ONE. IT HAD BEEN HOPED THAT LEFT WING STUDENTS WOULD NOT BEGIN TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER UNIVERSITIES CONVOKE ON OCTOBER 18, BUT THIS WAS APPARENTLY OVEROPTIMISTIC.

3. REPORTED PRESENCE OF KAMAL AL-DIN RIF'AT IS SIGNIFICANT.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09586 261334Z

A PROMINENT FREE OFFICER IN 1952, HE WAS NOT MEMBER OF

RCC, BUT HE IS WELL KNOWN AS LEFTIST AND NASSERIST, ESPECIALLY FOR HIS WORK IN LABOR AFFAIRS. HE SERVED AS MINLAB ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE LAST TIME IN DR. FAWZI'S FIRST CABINET IN 1970. FROM 1971 UNTIL JANUARY 1974 HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO UK AND WAS FINALLY PENSIONED FROM MFA IN NOVEMBER 1974. IN THAT SAME MONTH, RIF'AT WROTE ARTICLE FOR LEFTIST MAGAZINE AL-TALI'A CALLING FOR UNION OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO RESTORE ARAB SOCIALISM AND WARNING AGAINST DANGERS OF IMPORTED IMPERIALISM.

4. TOTAL LACK OF PUBLICITY ACCORDED STUDENT RALLIES IS INDICATION, IF ANY WERE NEEDED, OF GOE CONCERN ABOUT LEFTIST TROUBLEMAKING. FAHMY MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR THAT GOE CONTINUES HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT WORST POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY, I.E., COALITION OF FAR LEFT AND FAR RIGHT AGAINST SADAT. AT PRESENT THERE IS NO HINT THAT SUCH COALITION IS BEING FORMED, BUT SHOULD TWO REVOLUTIONARY "HEROES" SUCH AS RIF'AT FROM LEFT AND FORMER VP AND RCC MEMBER HUSAYN SHAFI' FROM RELIGIOUS RIGHT ATTEMPT TO LEAD SUCH A MOVEMENT, OR EVEN PUBLICLY TO CONDONE STUDENT PROTEST, SITUATION WOULD BE SERIOUS.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE STUDENT RALLIES WERE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH ANNIVERSARY OF NASSER'S DEATH SEPTEMBER 28, WHEN SADAT IS SCHEDULED TO DELIVER PUBLIC ADDRESS. RECENT PUBLICITY GIVEN TO CIRCUMSTANCES OF FIELD MARSHAL 'AMR'S DEATH, CURIOUS DEMISE OF NASSER'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, AND REOPENING OF MUSTAFA AMIN CASE MAY BE GOE'S REPLY TO CULT OF NASSERISM (SEPTTEL).  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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